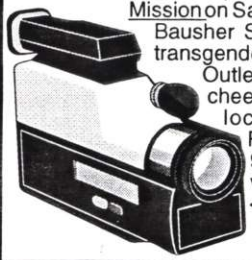
VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWSPAPER

VOL. 6 NO. 3 APRIL TO MID-MAY 2003

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANGENDER COMMUNITY FOR OVER 5 YEARS!

OVOM PRESENTS "MY TRANS MISSION"



Theatre Outlet will present OVOM's new documentary, My Trans Mission on Saturday, April 12 @ 8pm. The fictional Shawn Bausher Show is the setting for the discussion on transgender issues. Filming took place at the Theatre Outlet last fall. $12 admission includes wine & cheese reception to follow the screening. TO is located at 29 N. 9th St., Allentown. Reservations recommended: 610-820-9270. To volunteer or purchase OVOM videos, contact One Vision, One Mission at <STL327@hotmail.com>. Be sure to see the great article about OVOM and Steve Libby in Lehigh Valley Magazine.

LESBIAN SLAM POET COMING TO LEHIGH UNIVERSITY FOR HAVEN BENEFIT

Alix Olson will perform at 7:30pm on April 6 in the University Center at Lehigh Univ. All proceeds go to the GLBT youth group HAVEN. Alix has been featured in Girlfriends, Curve, the Advocate, Lesbian Review of Books & on Oxygen television, In the Life, CNN & WXPN's World Cafe. She is a Liberty High School graduate. The event is being co-sponsored by Lehigh Univ. Women's Center. Tickets: $5 in advance, $7 at door, $2 discount for Lehigh students. For ticket info: 610-868-0285.

DRAG OFF!!!

Friday, April 18 at The Stonewall, 11:00pm. The Valley's finest female illusionists will compete in a talent showcase to benefit Pride of the Lehigh Valley. The beauty with the most bills wins! 50/50 cash raffle. $5 cover to benefit PRIDE LV till midnight. Hosted by the Queen of Pride 2002, Jazman Star.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

to Present "Dreams and Prayers," directed by Dr. J. A. Kawarsky, June 7, at Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem at 8 P.M. Tickets:$12 ($6 Students & Srs.) Reserve Tickets by calling 610-366-3320.

WTA ANSWERS QUESTIONS PAGE 6

150 ATTEND MCCLV DEDICATION

In March, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley celebrated the dedication of their new site in Allentown. Over 150 attended the service. MCCLV pastor Rev. Elizabeth Goudy presided. MCCLV volunteers, who contributed a total of 1,733 hours of volunteer labor to prepare the new space, were honored.

Special musical performers included MCC Philadelphia Choir, MCC Imago Dei's soloist Gena Rose and MCCLV's Steve Ziminsky. Guest speakers included: Mayor Roy Afflerbach, City Councilmember Gail Hoover, Executive Director of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches Rev. Dr. Christine Nelson, former MCCLV Pastor Rev. Peter Helt, President of the Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance Felix Molina, Zion's Lutheran Pastor Rev. Frank Terhune and MCC Pastor Rev. Steve Filizzi. Over 45 people were led by Anthony Young in an open rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

From Left: Felix Molina, of the Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance, Allentown Mayor Roy Afflerbach & Maryann Afflerbach, Reverend Elizabeth Goudy.

Mayor Roy Afflerbach, who signed the Civil Rights amendment into law last year, said from the podium, "I'm absolutely delighted that the Metropolitan Community Church has chosen to locate here in our city." Felix Molina gave a particulary moving speech, read it in its entirity on page 2.

PA-GALA TO HOST SPECIAL BENEFIT PERFORMANCE OF THE PLAY "BRICKS" BY SUE SNEERINGER, AT THEATRE OUTLET

Friday, May 16, at 8pm.
Wine & hors d'oeuvre reception begins at 7pm.

PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES WILL ATTEND THE RECEPTION TO TALK TO LV GLBT VOTERS.

Tickets for play & reception: $20, Benefits PA-GALA & Theatre Outlet.
Contact PA-GALA for tickets: 610-432-5449, liztrish@aol.com

PRIDE FILM, APRIL 6

Cosponsored with FACT at Theater Oulet. "Sordid Lives" is a family tale that puts the "FUN" in dysfunctional. Sunday, April 6, at 1pm, 4pm. and 7pm. $5 admission. FACT members free.

PLANET Parenthood

by Carolyn Lewis

IN THE MOVIES

There was a wonderful movie on Lifetime called "Unexpected Love" about a divorced mom with two kids who falls in love with her lesbian boss. The movie raised issues that many of us have faced, including the coming out process, dealing with a former spouse who may or may not be supportive, telling the children and parents, custody issues, and handling family events.

In many ways, the movie simplified and glossed over these issues, but it was wonderful to see a movie that actually addressed them. Also, it was great to see a movie with lesbian characters who don't kill themselves or others, or wallow in their misery. In fact, the movie was extremely optimistic. It's not very suspenseful, so I don't feel bad about telling you the end of the movie (though if you plan to see it and don't want to know, stop reading).

Katy, the mother, could have lost everything. She confided in a friend whom she believed to be accepting but wasn't. Katy feared her friend would tell her ex-husband so she told him first, and of course he reacted badly and threatened to take the kids. Then, because of her husband's reaction, she was forced to come out to her mother (a lovely character full of spit and vinegar - definitely the hardest sell). Katy was in a position to lose her job, her home, her children, her mother, etc. I'm sure it's a story many of us know. But, in this case anyway, goodness and justice prevail. It was great to watch a lesbian love story with likeable (and believable!) characters who come out on top.

The movie ends as they are discussing moving in with each other. They had been together for 6 months (I guess they didn't buy the whole second -date-U-Haul thing!) and hadn't really addressed their relationship with the kids. What I want now is to see the sequel!

UUCLV LECTURE SERIES ON GREEN BUILDING

The UUCLV Green Space Committee & the Sierra Club are beginning a lecture series on April 23, at 7 pm at UUCLV. The 1st speaker will be Sigi Koko, Environmental Architect and Consultant. The lectures will the 4th Wednesday of each month (5/28,6/25& 7/23). For information, contact zinnes@fast.net.

THEATRE OUTLET'S TO2 SECOND STAGE PRESENTS VITA & VIRGINIA

AN EVENING WITH VIRGINIA WOOLF & VITA SACKVILLE-WEST

Staged Reading: Saturday, April 26 at 8:00pm & Sunday, April 27 at 2:00pm. Cost: $10 adult, $7 student / senior.

Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West, members of the illustrious Bloomsbury Group, met at a dinner party in 1922 and began an affair lasting 20 years. Woolf was by then a revolutionary, legendary Bloomsbury writer and publisher; Sackville-West, a fiery poet and novelist and prolific free spirit. Their revelatory letters to one another chronicle their extraordinary relationship. VITA & VIRGINIA is adapted from those very letters by veteran actress and playwright Eileen Atkins (Atkins can be seen in the award-winning film "The Hours," adapted from Michael Cunningham's book "The Hours" and inspired by Virginia Woolf's novel "Mrs.Dalloway").

The Theatre Outlet is located at 29 North 9th Street in downtown Allentown. For more info or to make reservations for VITA & VIRGINIA, please call Theatre Outlet's Box Office at 610-820-9270 or email theatreo@aol.com.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I am looking for advice on the current market situation. My retirement account has dropped in half. I am 15 years away from retiring. What do I do with my investments now?
Signed, Confused

Dear Confused, Try to refrain from violating a key rule that is especially hard to avoid in moments of distress: Don't get desperate. As long as you have a balanced portfolio and a thought out long term plan, I suggest that you stay invested as you are and not panic. If you are just too worried and you feel you MUST move because you cannot stand the volatility, I think you should choose short term bond investments. In that way, you will have safety and access to your money in case it seems wise to shift things in a few years.

Denise McKelvey is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman St. Suite 157 in Allentown. Please e-mail your questions todenise.m.mckelvey @aexp.com. Recommendations may not be suitable for your particular financial situation.

PA-GALA REMINDS EVERYONE TO PLEASE PAY THEIR DUES

FELIX MOLINA'S SPEECH FROM THE MCC DEDICATION CEREMONY

I am very glad to be here... because very few entities invite us or give us Latinos the opportunity to speak in their activities. When I got the call to come here and speak, I decided to go to the Board of the Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance and tell them about the invitation. If I had done that three years ago, it might not have been positive....but now, we are all together...as one... the committee was totally supportive

It was a great surprise and honor for me to be invited by Reverend Goudy to speak here today. I am honored, because for some time I have been very aware of the contributions the Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley and Rev. Goudy have made to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allied community and I have seen the growth MCCLV is experiencing.

It is a great joy for all of us residents of the City of Allentown to have MCCLV be part of our community and count on your support.

In this time of war and uncertainty, it is difficult to find a place were we can gather and feel like a real family with no importance given to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, family status, disability, or sexual orientation. A place where the love of God is alive and shared with everyone.

On behalf of the Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance, the Hispanic community of Allentown, and myself, I would like to cordially welcome MCCLV to our community and invite you to join our efforts in the betterment of our community.

HOT NEWS

B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB

The Barnes & Noble GLBT Book Club meets every month at the Whitehall store. APR 2003: meets Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at 7:00PM. B&N Store Phone: 610-821-7732.

GLORA SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown holds social events open to GLBT singles and couples. For information about GLORA's latest events, email GLORAinPA@aol .com or write to GLORA PO Box 1952, Allentown PA. 18105-1952.

GLOSS GAME NIGHT

The next Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society board game night is April 26 in Bethlehem. Contact GLOSS for directions and information. Phone: 610-434-2966, Email: <Info@gloss.org. Website: <http://www.gloss.org>.

BENEFIT PARTY POSTPONED

The Big Shiny Disco Ball- Sunday,April 6 @ The Stonewall 8pm-2am. to benefit One Vision, One Mission(OVOM) has been postponed to a future date. Stay tuned to VFP for the an update.

GLSEN MEETING

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network will be meeting the 2nd Monday in April and May at Muhlenberg College, Seager's Student Union -rms 108-109. Contact info-Carol Barron, 610.867.6641 or lvdukefan@aol.com

UUCLV TO INSTALL NEW MINISTER

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley is celebrating the installation of the Reverend Dr. Len De Roche. UUCLV invites the whole community to attend services at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 27 at 424 Center St., Bethlehem. For more info email uuclv@uuclvpa.org, call 610-866-7652, or see www.uuclvpa.org.

19TH ST. FILM SCHEDULE

Spring Series Part 1:
The Quiet American March 29 - April 6
Russian Ark April 5-13
Spring Series Part 2:
Spider April 12-20
Lawless Heart April 19-27
All the Real Girls April 26 - May 4
Laurel Canyon May 3-11
Raising Victor Vargas May 10-17
For times and admission prices: http://www.civictheatre.com/film/preview.html

STEVIE Z SCHEDULE

Stevie Z will be playing at the Mooselounge on Fridays, April 11 & May 16 from 9PM-Midnite. Stevie Z will be playing from 6:30-9:30PM at the Brick Tavern Inn in Quakertown on the following Saturdays: April 5 & 12 & May 3, 10, 17 & 24. Call (215) 538-0865 for Brick Tavern reservations. 50% of donations/tips received in April/May will go to FACT of the Lehigh Valley.

PFLAG LV

The PFLAG LV (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets monthly at Allentown's First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Crest Blvd. and Tilghman Sts.) on first Tuesdays. at 7:00 pm., Rm 115. Contact: pflag@fast.net or (610) 967-5219 for information. There are also PFLAG meetings in Reading, Pottsville & Monroe County: See page 4 for meeting dates.

PFLAG LV'S NEW WEB SITE
HTTP://WWW.EASTERN-PA-PFLAG.ORG/

EDEN @ AIR PRODUCTS EVENT

EDEN (Ethnically Diverse Employee's Network) of Air Products and Chemicals would like to extend an invitation to socialize and network with other Lehigh Valley Professionals! On May 1, from 6-8 p.m. join employees from across the Valley in an evening, which promises to be unique. It will be an evening of artworks by Edward Weston and a celebration of Cinco De Mayo. Spaces are limited, please RSVP by April 28 to marketing@allentownartmuseum .org if you are interested in attending.

BELGIUM GRANTS MARRIAGE

Earlier this year Belgium became the second country in the world -- after the Netherlands -- to legally recognize gay marriages. The new law, unlike its counterpart in the Netherlands, does not allow same-sex married couples to adopt children. Like other European nations, Belgium had already granted limited legal protections to same-sex unions, including tax and property rights.

FACT FUN IN THE SUN

On Sunday, May 18,1 p.m. at the Berkleigh Country Club, F.A.C.T. will be hosting a fundraiser complete with a fashion show, DJ and dancing. It is going to be a fun, informal fashion show and participants will be showing casual beachwear and casual summerwear. Tickets to the event: $45 For more information, call the FACT hotline at: 610-820-5519.

CHI RHO PRESS

Chi Rho Press is a Christian publishing house of MCC that serves the GLBT community. Chi Rho publishes a variety of books, booklets, and pamphlets for use by individuals and local churches. In the past year Chi Rho has added several important titles to its inventory including, "Together in Love: Faith Stories of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Couples," compiled by local author and LV PFLAG activist Roberta Showalter Kreider.

PRIDE FILM FOR MAY

Pride of the Lehigh Valley continues its monthly film screenings with the Thai film, "The Iron Ladies," on Saturday, May 10 at 7:30PM in room 212 of the Unitarian Church, 424 Center St, Bethlehem. "The Iron Ladies," tells the true story of a Thai male volleyball team that competes in the national championships in 1996 with a team consisting mostly of gays, transvestites and transsexuals. 2000; Comedy; Not Rated; Thai with English subtitles.

SOCIAL WORKERS CONFERENCE

National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania Chapter's 5th Annual Lobby Day, Tuesday, April 82003, 8:30 am -4:30 pm, Grace United Methodist Church, 218 State St, Harrisburg PA. For more information, call 800-262-6279 (in PA only) or 717-232-4125, fax 717-232-4140, www.nasw-pa.org.

SPARC LOBBYING RALLY

IGNITE Rally 2003, April 9, 2003, 10am-5pm. SPARC, 1300A N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA. For more information call 717-920-9537, www.sparc-pa.org or info@sparc-pa.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

Interested in getting together Friday evenings for dinner and bowling? Contact GLOSS. Phone: 610-434-2966, Email: <Info@gloss.org.

MARCUS WAYMAN CASE SET FOR JULY

The nationally important Marcus Wayman civil court case will be retried in Allentown.Recent information indicates that the trial will begin on July 14, which ironically would have been Marcus Wayman's 25th birthday. As a Minersville teenager, Wayman committed suicide in 1997 as a result of alleged anti-gay threats made to him by local police. Though the Minersville Police were found not criminally guilty, Wayman's family seeks civil justice and restitution over what they and GLBT legal groups consider a case of privacy infringement.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm
BEARS.-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the Stonewall, Moose Lounge 610-814-6916, Mtnbear@fast.net.
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players--qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere-email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA-Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email-GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.
GLOW-at PPL
GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network, 610-867-6641, csbarron21@aol.com Meetings, at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109 of the Seeger Student Union, Muhlenberg College
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call:610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or zinnes@fast.net
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
19th St/Civic Theatre-610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.
PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send $20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org
PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

APRIL 2003 REGISTER TO VOTE BY APRIL 18!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GLOSS LVGMC **LV PFLAG**	2 **HAVEN**	3 **GLOSS Skating** **PFLAG M** RAA	4	5 **StevieZ** GLOSS **BEARS**
6 **Alix Olsen** MCC UUCLV **Pride Film**	7 RAA	8 GLOSS MCC LVGMC	9 **HAVEN** **DAY OF SILENCE** **Ignite Rally**	10 GLOSS RAA	11 **StevieZ** **KS**	12 **StevieZ** **OVOM's My Trans Mission @ TC**
13 HMFF WDIY UUCLV **MCC-Palm Sunday**	14 **GLSEN** RAA	15 LVGMC GLOSS **PFLAG R** **B&N BOOKCLUB**	16 **HAVEN**	17 RAA GLOSS **PFLAG P** **MCC-Seder Service**	18 **Drag Off** **KS** **MCC-Good Friday Service**	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 **MCC Easter Sunday**	21 MCC RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	23 **HAVEN** **UUCLV Lecture**	24 RAA GLOSS	25 **KS**	26 **T.O.–V&V** **GLOSS Game Night**
27 **UUCLV Installation** WDIY MCC HMFF	28 RAA	29 GLOSS LVGMC	30 **HAVEN**			

MAY 2003 PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 **PFLAG M** RAA GLOSS ACCO **Air Products All Together Now**	2	3 WDIY **BEARS** GLOSS **StevieZ**
4 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	5 RAA	6 LVGMC GLOSS **LV PFLAG**	7 **HAVEN**	8 RAA ACCO GLOSS	9 **KS**	10 WDIY GLOSS **StevieZ** **PRIDE FILM**
11 MCC UUCLV GLOSS	12 RAA **GLSEN**	13 GLOSS LVGMC	14 **HAVEN**	15 ACCO RAA GLOSS **"Bricks"** **PFLAG P**	16 **StevieZ** **"Bricks" Benefit Presentation** **W/ PA-GALA CANDIDATE Night**	17 **StevieZ** WDIY **"Bricks"** **GLOSS Game Night**
18 **FACT FUN IN THE SUN** HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	19 RAA	20 PFLAG R **PRIMARY ELECTION** **B&N BOOKCLUB**	21 **HAVEN**	22 RAA ACCO GLOSS	23 **KS**	24 **StevieZ** GLOSS WDIY
25 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	26 RAA	27 MCC UUCLV GLOSS	28 **HAVEN**	29	30 **KS**	31 GLOSS WDIY

JUNE 2003 PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	2 RAA GLSEN	3 **LV PFLAG** LVGMC GLOSS	4 **HAVEN**	5 **PFLAG M** RAA GLOSS ACCO	6 **KS**	7 **GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT**
8 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	9 RAA GLSEN	10 LVGMC GLOSS	11 **HAVEN**	12 RAA GLOSS ACCO	13 **KS**	14 GLOSS WDIY
15 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	16 RAA	17 GLOSS LVGMC **B&N BOOKCLUB**	18 **HAVEN**	19 ACCO **PFLAG P** RAA GLOSS	20 **KS**	21 WDIY
LV PRIDE FESTIVAL **LV PRIDE PARADE**	23 RAA	24 LVGMC GLOSS	25 **HAVEN**	26 ACCO Lehigh U. GLOSS RAA	27 **KS**	28 GLOSS WDIY
29 **MCC to NYC PRIDE PARADE**	30 RAA	31 LVGMC GLOSS				

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., P.O.Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-0530/0531
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
Spectrum- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.5973
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com
VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST THURSDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG
- 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUESDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -TUES & SATS
MCC BOOK STUDY 2ND & 4TH TUES
KINDRED SPIRITS
- ALL FRIDAYS EXCEPT THE 1ST

APR 5 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
APR 6 - ALIX OLSEN @ LEHIGH
APR 6 - PRIDE FILM @ TO
APR 9 - PRO-GLBT DAY OF SILENCE
APR 9 - SPARC IGNITE RALLY 2003
APR 11 - STEVIE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
APR 12 - OVOM FILM @ TO
APR 12 -SCOTTS HAPPY TRAVELERS
APR 12 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
APR 13 - MCC PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
APR 14 - GLSEN
APR 15 - B&N BOOKCLUB
APR 17 - MCC SEDER
APR 18 - MCC GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
APR 18 - DRAG OFF @ STONEWALL
APR 20 - MCC EASTER SERVICE
APR 23 - UUCLV GREEN SPACE SERIES
APR 26 - GLOSS GAME NIGHT
APR 26-7 - TO2 VITA & VIRGINIA
APR 27 -UUCLV INSTALLATION
MAY 1 - EDEN @ AIR PRODUCTS
MAY 1 - ALL TOGETHER NOW MTG
MAY 3 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
MAY 6 - PFLAG-LV ALLENTOWN
MAY 10 - PRIDE FILM
MAY 10 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
MAY 12 - GLSEN
MAY 15-17 - BRICKS @ TO
MAY 16 - STEVIE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
MAY 16 - BRICKS PERFORMANCE
TO BENEFIT PA-GALA & TO
MAY 17 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
MAY 18 - FACT FASHION SHOW
MAY 20 - PRIMARY ELECTION DAY
MAY 24 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
JUNE 7 - GAY MEN'S CHORUS
JUNE 22 - LV PRIDE FESTIVAL
JUNE 29 MCC BUS TO NYC PRIDE

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE CALL TO CONFIRM! TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

IN APRIL, MCC WILL BE HOLDING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Services, April 13, MCCLV will have its Traditional Rainbow Palm Procession at both the 10:30 am & 6 pm services.

Holy Thursday Seder Meal, April 17, will be an observance of diverse worship and fellowship. This event will be held off-site. For details, contact the church or check the MCCLV website.

A Good Friday Reflective Tenebrea Service will be held at the church at 7:30 pm on April 18.

The Easter Sunday Services at 10:30 am and 6 pm, April 20, will be celebrated with Special Vocal and Instrumental Music and more.

MCCLV continues its Psalms Reading Lenten Series each Wednesday night thru April 16 at 7:30 pm.

VT CIVIL UNION & MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC T-SHIRTS AND STUFF

MCC friends and members have been asking for polo shirts, T-shirts, hats, visors and other "pride gear" with the MCC name and logo. THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE! To check out these items -- or to place your order -- visit http://www.MCCchurch.org.

MCC TO NYC PRIDE

The Fellowship Team of MCCLV is planning a bus trip to New York City for the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29. A count of how many people would be interested is necessary in order to reserve the bus. If you haven't seen this parade you will be amazed at the enormous sense of pride, not to mention the huge mass of GLBT people assembled in one place and at one time. It is Awesome!! Contact Fellowship Team Leader, Kevin Motroni at MCCLV for more information and to reserve your seat.

MCCLV is located in the Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Room 208 Allentown, PA 18103 (610-709-8800) email: mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com website: http://www. mcclv.org.

ALL TOGETHER NOW

On March 18, representatives from several area groups gathered at Moravian Theological Seminary. The main topic of this meeting was to discuss an ecumenical event for GLBT persons and their allies to further inclusion in Eastern Pennsylvania Christian churches.

The group agreed to meet every other month to discuss the possible activities. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 7 pm to 8:45 pm at Moravian Theological Seminary. For more information about "All Together Now," contact Jim Palmquist at 610-398-3074 or e-mail muttnjeff@enter.net.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

The Oscar Wrap-up

WOW!!!! This was the best Oscar telecast since Susan Sarandon won Best actress in 1996 (I love her). The 75th anniversary show featured a wonderfully funny (and gay-friendly) Steve Martin. Regarding the speculation that the awards would be cancelled because of the "Bush Family War" he quipped, "We're doing this show WITHOUT a red carpet tonight. That'll show 'em!" He referred to current co-star (and award nominee) Queen Latifah as "sequel money." Martin also outed Jack Nicholson during a particularly funny song/video segment. Martin later implied he had had sex with, among others, Julie Andrews and Ernest Borgnine (who blew him a kiss from the audience). Is it any wonder this is considered the GAY Superbowl?!

By the way, how did you do in your office pool?

Now for the winners: I love the fact that both Adian Brody and Roman Polanski won for the Pianist. Brody was very articulate and summed up the feelings of most of us during this time of uncertainty. And how freakin' cute is Colin Farrell?! I don't think the scale goes that high. Lots of hot looking babes, too (is it sexist if a gay man says "babes" referring to women?)

I don't do the fashion thing (as you can tell by looking at me) but the group at my house cited Susan Sarandon, Halle Berry, Jennifer Lopez, Catherine Zeta- Jones, Cameron Diaz, Julianne Moore and Kathy Bates as radiant. Most Valuable Player-- "Bowling" Division: To Michael Moore who deserved the award for best documentary and managed to piss off the conservative portion of the audience (did they think they were at a PTL taping?) with his anti "Bush Family War" comments.

And while I try not to get too political (it messes my hair), I want to follow up on my last article. I had written that to be anti-war is not equal to being anti-American. In the same vein, to be anti-war (or anti-Bush) is not to be anti-troops. They are following the (assinine) orders of our (hang & shake your head with me) Commander in Chief. In my day job I see many vets who are traumatized by the Post Tramatic Stress Disorder left from a war our nation keeps reminding them "we didn't want."

Now one for the girl kissers in the audience: To be anti-Bush is not to be anti-bush. You do the math. ;) See ya next month.

Dear WTA: There is a store in Allentown at 12th and Hamilton, across from the library called, "Over the Rainbow." Unfortunately the blinds are always closed and the place is never open. Do you know anything about it? **Tia**

Dear Tia, Great question! We noticed the store window when we were at the library, too. We checked it out. First, Investigative VFP Reporter Trish Sullivan called information, then called "Over the Rainbow," but it turned out to be a different "Over the Rainbow, " store that sells dolls in Emmaus. So then Trish went over to the Allentown address and asked some people in neighboring stores what's up. One person, who knew the store owner, promised she would ask him to call VFP. And he did. So here's the scoop.

The 'Over The Rainbow Gift and Pride Shop' at 7 South 12th Street in Allentown is opening on May 5. Store owner Gary Adams, a community activist and FACT Board Member, will be opening the shop with his partner.

The shop will carry gay pride and rainbow products, rainbow jewelry, old costume jewelry, aroma therapy products, oils and oil warmers, cards, condoms and lubricants, and general gift items like candles and glassware.

Dear WTA: The~~re's something different at Mom~~'s Pizza. Where are Ardyth and Kerri? **A Pizza Fan**

Dear Pizza Fan:

VFP has gotten many calls and emails from readers who missed Ardyth and Kerri at Mom's Pizza on 19th Street in Allentown.They have sold the franchise to someone else. The GLBT community will miss their gracious support and their pizza style. VFP wishes them best of luck in new endeavors!

---At press time ~~a VFP reader~~ called ~~in a~~ request asking WTA to find out about the anti-discrimination policy of an area hospital system. See next month's VFP for a full follow up on that concern.

---Last month, ~~Columnist Scott Laubner~~ took VFP Editor Liz Bradbury to task for "incorrectly correcting" his spelling of the word brunet to brunette Scott's note to Liz said, "I also checked my Funk & Wagnall ."Brunet" is for men. "Brunette" is for women. Also "blonde" is for women. "Blond" is for men.

Liz's reply, "Scott, you are right about the dictionary, and I blame my 'spell check.' In fact, we here at VFP try NOT to "feminize" words, which tends to make them diminutives. So we will stick with your spellings in general, and henceforth stay away from the "ettes, esses and ixes" altogether. However, Steve Libby's term "girl-kissers" is acceptable.

DINNER AND A MOVIE, WITH SCOTT'S HAPPY TRAVELERS

On April 12, Stephen Libby's next movie My Trans Mission, is going to be shown at the Theatre Outlet at 8:00pm. Scott says, "Let's gather beforehand at Louie's Italian Restaurant at 12th and Chew, for dinner at 6:00pm. Then we can all go to the theater together. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend!! Just email me back so I can keep a headcount." Contact Scott Laubner if you're interested. (scottlaubner@yahoo.com)

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

LOOKING FOR LOVE AT THE LAUNDROMAT

A well intentioned friend told me, "If you really want to meet guys you have to wash your clothes at the Suds 'n' Studs." As I was down to my last clean pair of chinos anyway, I thought, what the heck, I'll go.

After I picked a clean washing machine I scoped out the joint. An attractive blond was shoving his load into a machine. He put in two pairs of black jeans and three tank tops. Then he threw in a thong. I thought this guy has got to be a Kinsey six. But then he pulled out a Dallas football jersey, and even I know they stunk up the place this season. I moved on to the next aisle.

A brunet was pulling stuff out of a dryer. I saw a raspberry beret, the kind you find in a second hand store. I also noticed one thing was absent. No underpants. (Once I read an article in Vanity Fair about Tom Ford, the chief designer for Gucci. It was years ago but I think he said something like, "I don't wear underpants. Its just an extra layer. It just makes you look fatter.") The brunet also had a shirt with French cuffs. (As an aside I mention this because recently Congress changed the name of French fries and French toast in their cafeteria to freedom fries and freedom toast. So I guess his shirt had freedom cuffs. To continue this word play to its logical conclusion, in the future French kissing will be called freedom kissing in this column.) But then he pulled out two flannel shirts and I thought, this guy is no Christopher Street pedestrian.

A redhead started putting clothes into the washer next to mine. Somehow a Rhinestone tiara had got mixed into his wash basket. He pulled out some fish net stockings and women's underwear. At last I'd found my man. I pictured this guy wearing this ensemble on the dance floor. This redhead must knock 'em dead at the club. If there is a gay weapon of mass destruction, it is a rhinestone tiara and my homoland security advisory system jumped from golden rod to burgundy. He must have noticed me watching him because he said, "These clothes are my wife's."

I gathered up my clean clothes and left the Suds 'n' Studs. The only snuggle I would know on wash day was fabric softener. But don't worry Chipmunk readers, Spring has just started! Stay well, and stay tuned.

PRIDE FESTIVAL UPDATE

The International Theme of this year's PRIDE festival is Peace Through Pride. PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley is celebrating its 10 year anniversary with its festival and parade on Sunday, June 22, at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown. The festival will begin at noon, the parade, however, will start at 1:00pm this year. Pride is still in need of volunteers for all aspects of the festival and parade. If interested call 610-770-6200.

PRIDE, for the first time, is also working with Mayfair. PRIDE will be volunteering at the Mayfair Silent Auction. PRIDE is looking forward to making this an annual partnership with Mayfair. Please show your support for Pride's efforts and come out to Mayfair.

Anyone interested in being a Pride volunteer at Mayfair, please contact Terry Worthington: phone 610-770-6200 or email: <TWorthington@PrideLV.org>.

TURNING POINT OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY HAS SIGNED ON TO THE VFP ANTI-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

For information on 2nd parent adoption or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

LIZ OUT LOUD

IT'S HATE LANGUAGE

By Liz Bradbury

I've expressed concern about the word "bugger," before. For those of you who don't know, in England, "bugger" means gay man and is used as an insult like "faggot." "Buggery" is defined as anal sex or homosexual sex in the dictionary. The Buggery Act made homosexuality punishable by death in America in the 1600s. If you look up "bugger" in the dictionary, the definition is either "sodomite" or "a vulgar word for homosexual." If you look up the definition of "sodomite," you'll find "homosexual."

The problem is that "bugger" is slipping into common usage. The same thing has happened with the word "gay." Kids in school and young adults frequently use "gay" to mean anything bad or stupid. As in: "that coat is so gay." But "gay" isn't used in mainstream newspapers or American literature to mean annoying, the way "bugger" is beginning to be used.

In the first Harry Potter movie, an English teenage boy calls something that's very frustrating "a bugger." Interestingly, in the book by J.K. Rowling, there is no mention of the word at all. Every kid in England saw that Harry Potter movie and every one of them knows "a bugger" means a gay man. Meanwhile, the 100 million kids who saw Harry Potter in the United States, have just learned a new causal term for annoying, that they don't know also happens to directly refer to a minority group. Why did the movie makers think that was a good idea? They are English, they know what it means.

Last week, a comic in the Morning Call, used "bugger" to mean an annoying person. So I called up Universal Press Syndicate (UP), the company that distributes Real Life Funnies, and I spoke directly to the editor who actually edits that cartoon. The guy told me right from the onset that he happens to be gay. The scary thing is, he insisted that the common and casual usage of the word "bugger," and also the word "gay" (to mean annoying) just isn't that big a deal.

Meanwhile, he also told me that a Welsh organization had taken issue with UP for distributing an article that used the phrase, "Welsh on a bet." UP admitted that the defamatory use of the word "Welsh" was rude, so UP actually paid them off. So, UP would concede that "Welsh on a bet," is rude (which it is) but here's this gay editor who still wants to ignore that "bugger" is creeping into the English language as a substitute for the word annoying? Not to mention the common use of the word "gay" to mean inferior! Is this internalized homophobia or what?

Does not knowing what a word means make it OK to use it? Apply that logic to words that mean body parts or profanity. Think about racist or anti-Semitic words. Those words were created to demean minority groups. Just like the word "bugger." They are not OK to use just because a lot of people do it and others don't always know what they mean.

I also called I media watch group GLAAD (The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). I told them about my concern and asked them to add the word "bugger" to their list of defamatory words, in their media guide. Let's hope they do. Because it's easier to keep something out of the language than get people to stop saying it once it's in common usage.

HERE ARE THE DEADLINES FOR THE NEXT TEN VFPS. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PUBLICATION DATES MAY CHANGE.

Submissions for May 2003 issue , deadline Monday, April 21.
Submissions for June 2003 issue , deadline Wednesday, May 21.
Submissions for June Pride Festival issue - covers July 2003, deadline Saturdat, June 14.
Submissions for combined August-September Issue 2003, deadline, Monday, July 21.
Submissions for October 2003, deadline Sunday, September 21.
Submissions for November 2003, deadline Tuesday, October 21.
Submissions for December 2003, deadline Friday, November 21.
Submissions for combined January-February issue 2004, deadline Sunday, December 21, 2003.
Submissions for March 2004, deadline Saturday, Febrary 21
Submissions for April 2004, deadline Sunday, March 21

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

THE END OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Most people think I'm Catholic because of my name. I'm not. My father was born in 1896 to Irish Catholic immigrants. His mother died when he was a boy. His father was unable to care for him so he placed him in a Catholic orphanage in Canada. The horrible treatment children received in Catholic orphanages in Canada during the first half of the 20th century is infamous. These circumstances caused my father to renounce the Catholic Church. At the age of 12, he was placed by the orphanage (like thousands of other orphans) with a family who sought a boy to do their chores.

My father always taught me to be proud of my Irish heritage. He sang Irish songs and instilled in me the tradition of recounting embellished folk tales. My mom cooked Irish food; potatoes, cabbages, sausage and oatmeal. My father never ate chocolate cake unless it was covered with "clotted cream." There were always freshly baked treats; soda bread with currants and caraway, scones and freckle bread, to slather with butter and honey.

We lived in a small southern town where there were no other Irish families, but we made our own St. Patrick's Day celebration. After college, I moved to New York. There I would have a St. Patrick's party for all my friends with lots of Irish music, corned beef and cabbage, soda bread and Irish beer. On St. Patrick's Day we would go to Manhattan for the parade.

Up until I lived in New York, I had never realized that the celebration of St. Patrick's Day was also intrinsically tied to the Catholic Church. The NYC parade organizers choose to prohibit people like me from marching, non-Catholics were welcome, but gay men and lesbians clearly were not, even if their brogue was thick enough to be cut with a knife. I could only be a part of the real celebration if I pretended to be something I wasn't.

Last March, we were working for the passage of the amendment of "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the Allentown Human Relations Ordinance. Nine days after the Allentown City Council passed the amendment a referendum petition was begun to remove those rights. Four of the petitioner's committee of five, were active Catholics. The Catholic Churches in the City of Allentown permitted petitioners to circulate the petitions during services and advertised the petition effort in their church bulletins.

Many churches struggle philosophically with the acceptance of gay men and lesbians, but the Catholic Church takes intolerance much further by consistently investing its financial resources to threaten the basic rights of gay men and lesbians. In California and Philadelphia, the Catholic Church spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the campaign against domestic partnership benefits. While there were 80 organizations who supported the right to second parent adoption in Pennsylvania, only two organizations worked to prohibit it. One was the conservative far right Pennsylvania Family Institute, the other was the Catholic Church.

While in the past the Catholic Church has fought for education, the poor and the sick, that doesn't remove the fact that the Catholic Church has spent an enormous amount of money and effort trying to take away the rights of GLBT people including those who were pooor or sick. While many individual Catholics in the City of Allentown publicly supported the rights of GLBT people and removed their names or refused to sign the referendum petitions, not one single Catholic official renounced the referendum effort. When a young local Catholic woman, who happened to be pro-gay, made a public statement to the newspapers that her priest had told her to sign the referendum petition saying it was pro-gay and even though she called that priest to ask him about that petition after she signed it, the priest never explained his actions to her or to the public.

Though I treasure my Irish heritage, I am not Catholic for many reasons. The active intolerance of the Catholic Church can't be ignored. It has even ruined St. Patrick's Day.

POP QUIZ

1. Steve Libby calls "The Oscars" the Gay:
A. Olympics B. Super Bowl
B. Pulitzers D. Show of Shows

2. Which performer has won the most Oscars?
A. Lawrence Olivier B. Katherine Hepburn
C. Meryl Streep D. Tom Hanks

3. Which of these films did not win Best Picture?
A. Casablanca B. An American in Paris
C. Marty D. The Man Who Knew to Much

4. Which films had 11 nominations but won nothing?
A. The Color Purple B. The Turning Point
C. Grand Hotel D. Midnight Cowboy

5. What is the shortest name ever of a nominated film? A. If B. 3D C. Z D. Q

6. Who was the oldest winning performer to get an Oscar? A. George Burns B. Helen Hayes
C. Jack Palance D. Jessica Tandy

7. Which of these films did not win Best Picture, Actor, Actress, Director, & Screenplay? A. Titanic
B. It Happened One Night C. Silence of the Lambs
D. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

8. Which is the only three generation Oscar winning family? A. The Houstons B. The Barrymores
C. The O'Neill's D. The Huttons

9. What was the first year the Oscar's winners names were kept a secret in guarded envelopes?
A. 1929 B. 1940 C. 1957 D. 1971

10. Who gave the longest acceptance speech ever?
A. Alfred Hitchcock B. Sally Field
C. Greer Garson D. Roberto Benigni

1.B 2.B 3.D 4.A&B 5.C 6.D 7.A 8.A 9.B 10.C

QUOTE #6

"Their signs read: Your Mouth is Fundamental. In other words, it's fundamental to speak out against fundamentalism: Christian, fascist, racist, sexist, pugilist, or homophobic."
--Kate Clinton on the World Social Forum in Brazil

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual orperceived: race,color religion ,national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

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Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitian Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religous Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

"For three years, health officials have warned that nonoxynol-9 doesn't prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and may even boost the risk of HIV infection."
-- From a recent study that indicated many gay men are still misguidedly using nonoxynol-9 during sex, with the incorrect notion it would protect them.

QUOTE #2

"I don't think it ever had support in this chamber,I think it's an exercise to terrorize families in this state with a crazy idea."
-- State Sen. Joel Bolkcom (D-Iowa City) in response to failed legislation aimed at banning gay and lesbians from adopting or becoming foster parents.

QUOTE #3

"Fortunately for McLaughlin, his parents were accepting and understanding, avoiding such tragedy."
--From an ACLU press release about a 14 year old student whose Arkansas school staff outed him to his parents and punished him for talking about being gay. The quote references Marcus Wayman, who shot himself in 1997 in reaction to an alleged threat by Minersville PA police to out him to his family. The ACLU is rigorously pursuing the Arkansas case and the teenager's right to be openly gay at school.

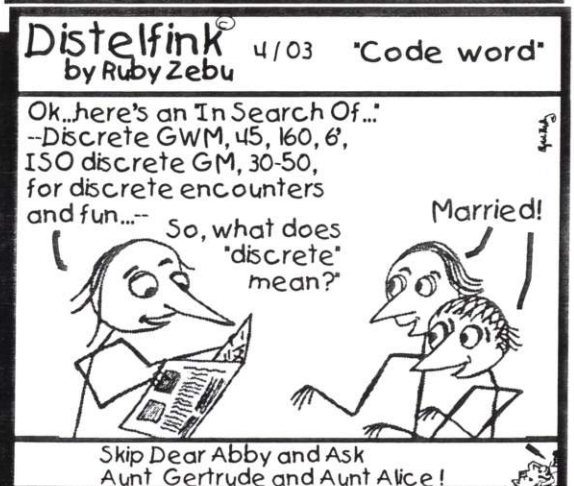
QUOTE #4

"And compounding the problem is the fact that the Bush administration wants to remove all mention of condoms from AIDS prevention education. Their solution to AIDS? Marry a member of the opposite sex and stay monogamous." **-- From an April Advocate article about AIDS and the GLBT community**

QUOTE #5

"For everyone out there who thinks the theater is full of nothing but Jews and gays, all I have to say is, "Oy gevalt, my lover and I just won a grammy!"
--Hairspray composer- lyricist Marc Shaiman with his partner and co- lyricist Scott Williams

Distelfink© by Ruby Zebu 4/03 "Code word"



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